

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 05013 161202Z

13

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00 EB-04 LAB-01 SIL-01 NIC-01

SAJ-01 SAM-01 /078 W

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R 161100Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1040

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PNTA DELGADA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 5013

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB PINT PO

SUBJ: MINISTRY OF LABOR CIRCULATING DRAFT UNION DECREE LAW FOR
COMMENT

REF: (A) STATE 209741 (B) LISBON 4856

SUMMARY: A DRAFT LAW ON UNION ORGANIZATION IS BEING CIRCULATED TO
UNIONS FOR THEIR COMMENT. THE DRAFT CONTAINS PROVISIONS CALLING FOR
A UNITARY LABOR CONFEDERATION, A PROPOSAL WHICH THE COMMUNISTS
STRGONGLY FAVOR. THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS AGAINST A POSSIBLE VISIT
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PAGE 02 LISBON 05013 161202Z

BY AFL/CIO REPRESENTATIVE IRVING BROWN. END SUMMARY.

1. THE MINISTRY OF LABOR IS CIRCULATING AS AN ADVISORY DOCUMENT THE PROPOSED TEXT OF A DECREE LAW REGULATING TRADE UNION ORGANIZATION IN ORDER THAT INTERESTED UNIONS MAY MAKE COMMENTS BY NOVEMBER 30. THE PROPOSED DECREE IS REPORTEDLY FOR ALL PURPOSES IDENTICAL WITH THE ORIGINAL DRAFT PREPARED BY THE MINISTRY OF LABOR WHICH PROVIDES FOR THE CREATION OF ONE OVERALL LABOR CONFEDERATION IN PORTUGAL. THE CREATION BY LAW OF A UNITARY LABOR CONFEDERATION IS OPPOSED IN VARYING DEGREES BY THE SOCIALISTS, PPD, CDS, AND OTHER SMALLER POLITICAL PARTIES AS WELL AS BY UNIONS NOT AFFILIATED WITH THE COMMUNIST-CONTROLLED INTERSINDICAL. DISTRIBUTION OF THE DRAFT DECREE LAW IS BEING HANDLED BY THE LISBON OFFICE WORKERS UNION, AN INTERSINDICAL PILLAR, WHICH IS INDICATIVE THAT UNION RESPONSES WILL BE OVERWHELMINGLY FAVORABLE, OR MANIPULATED SO THAT THEY SEEMINGLY ARE, TOWARD A UNITARY CONFEDERATION.

2. TEXT OF ORIGINAL DRAFT LAW POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT NOVEMBER 14 AND FURTHER ANALYSIS WILL BE SENT SEPARATELY TO THE DEPARTMENT. IT IS LIKELY THAT THERE WILL NOW BE AN ORCHESTRATED CAMPAIGN BY THE COMMUNISTS AND THEIR FRIENDS IN FAVOR OF A UNITARY CONFEDERATION.

3. THE INDEPENDENT LEFTIST TABLOID DIARIO DE LISBOA NO NOVEMBER 15 CARRIES A BOXED ARTICLE ENTITLED "THE SINDICAL PLURALISM OF MR. IRVING BROWN" IN WHICH IT IS STATED THAT BROWN VISITED PORTUGAL IN MAY AND THAT HE, AS A CIA AGENT, FINANCED THE DIVISION OF THE FRENCH AND ITALIAN LABOR MOVEMENTS IN 1948-49. THE ARTICLE CONTINUES, "BROWN IS NOT NOW AN AGENT OF THE CIA OR SO HE SAYS. HE IS ONLY, AND THIS TOO IS SINISTER, THE EUROPEAN REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REACTIONARY AFL/CIO. HE IS PRESENTLY IN ITALY WHERE HE IS WORKING AT ALL COSTS TO IMPEDE THE UNIFICATION OF THE THREE LABOR CONFEDERATIONS THERE...PORTUGAL IS PRESENTLY CAUSING CONCERN TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE. BROWN'S VISIT SHOULD BE SEEN IN THIS CONTEXT. BE CAREFUL OF THE SINDICAL PLURALISM OF MR. IRVING BROWN".

4. REFERENCE (A) IMPLIES THAT BROWN MAY SOON VISIT PORTUGAL. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT SUCH A VISIT WOULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE IF IT BECAME PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE INASMUCH AS IT WOULD PLAY INTO THE COMMUNISTS' HANDS FOR PROPAGANDA PURPOSES. THE EMBASSY REPEATS ITS BELIEF THAT THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE SECRETARIATS NOW REPRESENT THE MOST VIABLE MEANS FOR BRINGING FREE LABOR'S INFLUENCE TO BEAR IN CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 LISBON 05013 161202Z

PORTUGAL.

5. LUKENS INFORMED OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THIS MESSAGE AND CONCURS. SCOTT

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